



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***WEST VALLEY CITY PROSECUTORS HONORED BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AT CEREMONY FRIDAY MORNING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.***

SALT LAKE CITY – Three West Valley City prosecutors are in Washington, D.C., today receiving an award from the Department of Justice recognizing their work on Utah Project Safe Neighborhoods, an anti-gun violence initiative in Utah.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Utah nominated Ryan D. Robinson, Eric Bunderson, and Clint Gilmore from the West Valley City Prosecutor's Office for the honor given annually by the Executive Office for United States Attorneys at the Department of Justice. The three were selected by the Department of Justice to receive the award for Superior Performance as Special Assistant United States Attorneys. The award recognizes the significant performance of city and county prosecutors who are cross-designated Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys to handle cases in federal court in coordination with full-time federal prosecutors.

The awards were given in a ceremony this morning at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Acting Attorney General Peter D. Keisler was at the ceremony to present awards to 132 recipients who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to federal, state, and local law enforcement. U.S. Attorney for Utah Brett L. Tolman also attended the ceremony and participated in presenting the award to the West Valley City prosecutors.

“This is a significant award which recognizes the outstanding work these West Valley City attorneys have done in helping to make the community they serve a safer place to live,” Tolman said. “Utah can be very proud of these prosecutors and the national recognition they received today.”

For the last several years, Project Safe Neighborhoods has been a high priority in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Utah. According to Tolman, the program has been successful in Utah because of the significant partnerships that have been developed between local, state, and federal law enforcement and prosecution agencies.

“West Valley City is a graphic illustration of the partnerships President Bush and the Attorney General had in mind when PSN was launched. West Valley City prosecutors and law enforcement officers have helped Utah PSN link federal, state, and local law enforcement, prosecutors, and community leaders together to provide a multi-faceted approach to deterring and preventing gun crime in Utah,” Tolman said.

The partnership between West Valley City and Utah PSN had its genesis in the city prosecutors’ desire to strengthen the city’s efforts to combat domestic violence involving the use of firearms. The initial focus on reducing domestic violence has broadened through the years to include armed career criminals and violent street gangs.

In 2002, when the West Valley City Prosecutor’s Office joined forces with the Utah PSN effort, special assistant U.S. attorneys from West Valley City screened 75 cases for federal prosecution and federal indictments were returned charging 73 defendants with violations of firearms laws.

“The leadership and commitment they showed during the early days of PSN in Utah brought other key local law enforcement agencies to the table,” Tolman said. From 2002 to the present, Robinson, Bunderson,

Gilmore – along with three other former West Valley City prosecutors who have since moved on to new positions in other prosecution offices including the U.S. Attorney’s Office – have contributed to the screening of 284 PSN cases from West Valley City which have resulted in 133 federal indictments. Eighty-three defendants have been sentenced to federal prison time as a result of their efforts with average sentences of 49 months.

Equally important to PSN, these attorneys went to bat with their city officials to facilitate West Valley City’s designation as the Utah PSN fiscal agent. As the fiscal agent for PSN, West Valley City has managed a variety of grants to other law enforcement agencies in Utah. Additionally, two of the three senior police officers, who have commanded the Utah PSN operational task force, have come from West Valley City.

“These prosecutors are working extremely hard on behalf of their community and it was an honor to nominate them for national recognition by the Department of Justice and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys,” Tolman said.

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance, and direction to the 94 United States Attorneys offices around the country.

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